

Serial No. 10/025,156
Art Unit 1762

Amendment E After Final

Remarks:

Responsive to the Official Action made final mailed December 8, 2003 in connection with the above-referenced application, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration, reexamination and allowance of claims 1-6 and 8-21 in view of the following remarks.

First, Applicant would like to take this opportunity to thank Examiner Parker for his continued kind consideration, time and patience during prosecution of the present.

In the present amendment, applicant has amended claims 1, 6 and 18 to indicate that the article is heated to a temperature that is above the melting point temperature but below the curing temperature of the powder coating and that the coated article is then heated to temperature above the melting point temperature to cure the powder coating.

Applicant submits that the claims have as amended are allowable over the Leach patent in that the Leach patent does not require heating the article only to a temperature above the powder coating melting point *but below the curing temperature*. Nor does Leach specifically require, *subsequent to application of the coating, heating the coated article to a temperature greater than the curing temperature*.

Leach, at col. 5, lines 54-59 states that, "[i]f necessary, a second application of the infrared is applied to the powder coating to cure the powder coating . . . " This, by necessity means that a first application of infrared (heat) is contemplated to have been sufficient to cure the powder coating material.

Applicant submits that the use of the method of Leach would not address one of the problems resolved by the present invention. That is, as provided in paragraph 0038 of the present application, ". . . preheating the article to a temperature above ambient temperature, but below the cross-linking temperature of the powder coating material permits reuse of any material that does not adhere to the article. Thus, the material that falls from the article can be reused in that it has not been subjected to its cross-linking temperature and cross-linking of the material has not yet begun to occur." This, Applicant submits simply could not result from use of the Leach method because the preheat temperatures used in the Leach method are so high that the

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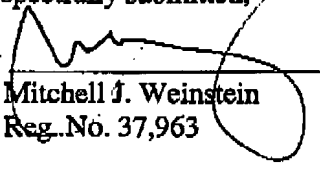
powder coating would already have begun to cross-link, thus making any of the excess coating material not reusable.

In conclusion, applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6 and 8-21 are in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly submitted. Applicant believes that there is no fee due in connection with the present Amendment E After Final Action. If, however, there is a fee due, Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge any underpayment, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 23-0920. Should any petitions be necessary, applicant requests that this paper constitute any such necessary petition.

If Examiner Parker believes that there are issues that could be addressed by a telephone interview, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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